

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A sternal closure device ~~comprising~~ including impermanently joined sliding and receiving attachment structures which are adapted for intercostal positioning between at least two corresponding rib pairs and substantially surrounding a patient's sternum with each structure having a cross member, a plurality of integrated legs and foot members, a plurality of sternum engagement surfaces, and an end portion. The receiving structure further incorporates a resiliently tensioned catch member with angularly disposed teeth like structures positioned to receive and position a plurality of receiving structure projection members when inserted therein. The catch member further serves as a stabilizing structure ~~for the entire apparatus~~ with stabilization facilitated via an easily removed single screw like structure markedly facilitates quick release ~~of the apparatus positioned and secured~~. The projection members further embody complimenting positioned teeth like structures ~~to provide~~ providing for racheting, unidirectional entry and positioning within the receiving structure, whereupon complimentary teeth engagement surfaces on catch and receiving member projection members facilitate secure and precision positioning ~~of the invention~~.